

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: DRILLSHIP GLOMAR CHALLENGER

REF: THE HAGUE 4615

1. FOR CONTACT WITH LOCAL PRESS, POST MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING
SUPPLIED BY NSF.

2. GLOMAR CHALLENGER (UNDERSCORE) IS A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
SHIP OPERATED BY SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY FOR THE
DEEP SEA DRILLING PROJECT, FUNDED BY THE U.S. NATIONAL
SCIENCE FOUNDATION. SCIENTIFIC GUIDANCE FOR THE PROJECT IS
PROVIDED BY THE JOINT OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTIONS FOR DEEP
EARTH SAMPLING (JOIDES). CURRENT JOIDES MEMBERS ARE WOODS
HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION, THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S
ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL OF MARINE AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE,
THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON'S DEPARTMENT OF OCEANOGRAPHY,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S LAMONT-DOHERTY GEOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY,
THE INSTITUTE OF OCEANOLOGY OF THE U.S.S.-R. ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES, THE BUNDESANSTALT FUR BODENFORSCHUNG, FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, AND SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY
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OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

3. THROUGH THE STUDY OF SAMPLES WITHDRAWN FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR, DSDP SCIENTIST ARE ABLE TO RECONSTRUCT THE HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF THE EARTH'S OCEANS AND CON-

TINENTS. GLOMAR CHALLENGER OBTAINS THESE SAMPLES BY DRILLING AND CORING THE SEDIMENTS AND UNDERLYING CRUST OF THE OCEAN FLOOR. TODAY SHE IS THE ONLY SHIP CAPABLE OF DRILLING THE DEEP OCEAN AT DEPTHS OVER 20,000 FEET WITH AS MUCH AS 4,200 FEET PENETRATION BE- NEATH THE OCEAN FLOOR.

4. DURING THE SIX YEAR HISTORY OF THE DSDP THERE HAVE BEEN MANY NOTABLE SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS. ON A MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE IN 1970, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA BASIN WAS ALMOST DRY 5 MILLION YEARS AGO, AT WHICH TIME IT SUDDENLY REFILLED. ON CRUISES THROUGHOUT THE OCEANS, THE THEORY THAT THE EARTH'S CRUST IS COMPOSED OF LARGE PLATES WHICH CARRY DRIFTING CONTINENTS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

5. SCIENTISTS CONTINUE TO FILL IN DETAILS OF THIS REVOLUTIONARY THEORY WITH EVIDENCE OBTAINED BY GLOMAR CHALLENGER. DURING THE CRUISE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC THIS SUMMER; IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE NOW SUBMERGED ANCIENT COASTLINE OF ARGENTINA WAS A NEAR PERFECT FIT WITH THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA. THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE THE LAST PIECE OF EVIDENCE NEEDED TO PROVE THE TWO CONTINENTS WERE ONCE JOINED AS PART OF THE SUPERCONTINENT GONDWANALAND.

6. WITH THE AMSTERDAM PORT CALL (DUE SEPT 26) GLOMAR CHALLENGER CONCLUDES A TWO MONTH DRILLING CRUISE IN THE NORWEGIAN AND GREENLAND SEAS. PRELIMINARY RESULTS INDICATE: GREENLAND APPARENTLY SEPARATED AND BEGAN DRIFTING AWAY FROM NORWAY ABOUT 55 MILLION YEARS AGO; A LAND BRIDGE BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND EURASIA CONTINUED UNTIL ABOUT 20 MILLION YEARS AGO.

7. DR. MANIK TALWANI OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, USA, AND DR. GLEB UDENTSEV OF THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WERE CO-UNCLASSIFIED

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CHIEF SCIENTISTS FOR THE CRUISE. OTHER NATIONS REPRESENTED ON THIS CRUISE WERE BRITAIN, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, AND NORWAY. INGERSOLL

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